

Welcome to Wells & Mendip Museum's newsletter with information about exhibitions, talks, events and developments at the Museum. If you would like to receive a copy by e-mail please contact admin@wellsmuseum.org.uk

Opening hours: Tuesday – Saturday 10am – 4pm (Closed Sundays & Mondays)

First Floor Exhibition Room

3 August – 27 August

“No Doubt” – an exhibition of paintings and screen prints by Arik Casey



Arik's journey as an artist has followed a diverse route from graphic designer then screen print poster artist in the 60s, art school then industrial designer and technical illustrator working on skate boards, ships furniture and the machinery to manufacture computer chips in the 70s.

This led to a 26-year spell as an artist and animator in the computer games industry from the 80s through to the early 2000s. Arik then moved from London to Wells where he worked in the design and technology department at the Blue School.

Arik's August exhibition titled “No Doubt” is both in Acrylics on canvas, hand pulled screen printing on paper and airbrush on canvas. **Free entry to exhibition only**

31 August – 17 September

Art exhibition by the Draycott art group

The Draycott art club has had a long layoff due to Covid but during that time many of the members remained busy. The club started back at the beginning of the year with a very full program, and they are very excited to be holding their first exhibition, for a number of years, at the Museum.

The exhibition will show a great variety of subjects by long-time members and newcomers. There will be framed pictures, mounted work in browsers and reproduction prints and cards for sale. They are all aware of problems with the current cost of living so every effort has been made to provide high quality work at attractive prices. Members of the club will be on duty at the show to talk about the pictures and the work of the club.

Free entry to exhibition only



24 September – 8 October

“Capitals” – A multi-media exhibition by Chris Lee



As part of the Somerset Art Weeks Festival 2022, Chris Lee parks his hat and wobbly seat long enough to exhibit this year's cache of beautiful buildings! The A-Z of colourful cityscapes was finally completed in Zaragoza, CAPITALS is that show.

Pen, ink (and beer) drawings with a generous splash of watercolour.

The fun shines through! **Free entry to exhibition only**



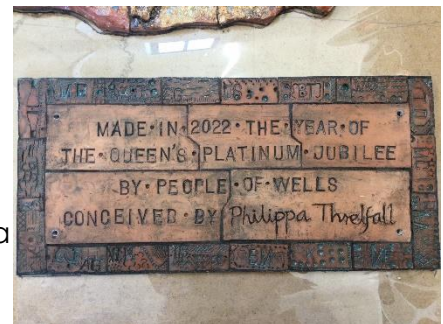
CAPITALS

Ground Floor Meeting Room

24 September – 29 October

Photographic exhibition by Ann Cook

As part of the museum's Search & Learn project, supported by a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, this exhibition will feature photographs taken by Ann Cook showing the various stages of the creation of the mural (details below), which was designed by Philippa Threlfall, one of the museum trustees, and modelled and glazed by a group of volunteers from the local community. **Museum entry fees apply**



Museum garden mural



Photograph by Ann Cook

On Monday 25th July, a group of volunteers met in Philippa Threlfall's studios to see the three ceramic figures that they have modelled and glazed over the last months. Arranged on the floor of the studio, it was the first time that the figures had been seen together lying side by side: Bishop Beckynton – Dean William Turner – Herbert Balch.

There are descriptive panels naming the figures with their dates. The west front of the Cathedral lies behind the Bishop. Dean Turner is shown surrounded by plants based on the wood cuts in his famous English Herbal. Herbert Balch, founder of Wells & Mendip Museum, sits in front of the kind of cave that he loved to explore.

The figures have now all been integrated into polyester and fibreglass panels ready for installation. The volunteers decided on the final size of the rectangle containing the figures and agreed on the colour to paint it. This painted rectangle will unite all the component parts into a whole, giving it impact on the wall at the rear of the museum garden, making it an exciting new feature.

A lot of different processes go into making ceramic panels like these. Ann Cook, a professional photographer, has come to every session, taking photographs of every stage as each figure developed from raw clay to the final colourful glazed panel. An exhibition (details above) will show a selection of these fascinating images.

On Friday 15th July another group of the volunteer- makers came to the Museum to see a collection of these photographs and contributed constructively to the necessary editing. Ann is taking portrait photographs of all the volunteers who have agreed to have these appear in the exhibition.

It has been a bonding as well as creative experience for everyone working on this genuine *community* mural. All the photographs and portraits will be part of an archival collection about the mural, kept carefully in the Museum for the interest of posterity. This includes children from Stoberry School who came to the studio to make the tiles that surround the descriptive panels.

Update on the hidden walled museum garden



Since completion of the terracing in the upper gardens in early 2021 other projects have either been completed or are underway – timber edgings have been installed to the fern bed next to the rear entrance and the new bed alongside the path leading to the city archives. Screens and a gate have been installed to the work and covered storage areas. Thanks to a grant from Wells Civic Society we have been able to plant six cider apple trees native to

Somerset along the perimeter of the raised events lawn.

Recently the rectangular backdrop to Philippa Threlfall's terracotta mural was set out on the wall at the back of the garden. It is being painted in preparation for installation of the mural next month.

Longer-term projects include replacement of the timber benches inherited from the Old Deanery garden project, construction of new steps built to ambulant disabled standards and building an arbour over the seating area in the upper garden.

Visitors to the museum are encouraged to visit the garden. Even many local residents are unaware of its existence. Please promote the garden whenever you can. It is also available to hire in conjunction with our Lecture Hall. Please visit our website or contact the museum for more details.

Other Events in the Museum

Saturday 3 September 10am – 4pm “KinoKotch” Workshop – Somerset Film and Fabian’s Films are presenting a “street cinema” project for Wells. “Kino” in Europe means cinema. “Kotch” is a Jamaican slang expression for hanging or chilling at a location for a temporary amount of time.

Join award-winning filmmaker & academic Dr. John Sealey and explore Wells through a camera lens. The KinoKotch project takes place between Sept '22 – April '23, and begins with a series of free community filmmaking workshops. The second of these workshops, taking place at the museum, is for anyone over 12 yrs. Participation is free for anyone living or working in Wells and the immediate Mendip areas, thanks to support from Mendip District Council Communities Fund and Arts Council England.



To book a place, please call 01278 433187 or visit www.somersetfilm.com/get-involved
To find out more about the project visit www.somersetfilm.com/community

Creative Workshops for families in conjunction with Somerset Art Works

As part of our new "Search & Learn" project, we will be running some creative workshops for children & families. Drop in anytime 10am – 3.30pm. No booking necessary Free entry to workshops

Saturday 13 August – Create a cool swan sculpture with artist **Fiona Campbell**. Learn to mould chicken wire, develop wire-work techniques, use recycled paper for a paper mache layer. Workshop suitable for 8 years+. Colouring activities available for younger children.

Thursday 25 August – Join Wells textile artist, **Jan Ollis** to create a cross stitch sampler "hanging" inspired by the samplers held in the museum's collection. Activities for all the family and simple activities provided for younger children.

Saturday 24 September – Bring the Ice Age beasts of the Mendips back to life through the magic of early and digital animation devices. Inspired by the museum's collection, tell a story of time and climate change with Artist **Sean Harris**.

Heritage Open Days 2022

The museum will be participating in this year's Heritage Open Days 2022, England's largest festival of history and Culture, which will be running Friday 9 September – Sunday 18 September – more details to follow shortly.

Come and join our team!

Front of House volunteers needed

Our Front of House volunteers co-ordinate the smooth running of the reception area by extending a warm and informative welcome to all our visitors.

This is a key role and ideal for anyone who likes to work in a varied, customer orientated environment, and who are happy working as part of a team but are equally happy to work alone if necessary. Computer literacy an advantage.

For more information or an application form, please contact Christine Fewer, Museum Manager at: admin@wellsmuseum.org.uk

Museum Mentors

Could you be a Museum Mentor?

We are looking for people to become Museum Mentors – volunteers who help us to welcome socially isolated people, who may feel nervous about entering a museum setting, and encouraging them to engage with our collections. Our Museum Mentors will play a vital role in helping us to deliver the Search & Learn project, and training will be provided.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Victoria Northwood, Search & Learn Project Manager at: community@wellsmuseum.org.uk



#wells.museum



@wellsmuseum



[facebook.com/wellsandmendipmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/wellsandmendipmuseum)

Data protection and email addresses. If you have received this newsletter by email we clearly hold your email address. If you do not wish to receive information in this way, please unsubscribe using the link included in the email. If you receive this newsletter by post and no longer wish to do so, please contact the Museum Manager on 01749 673477 or admin@wellsmuseum.org.uk